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THE YUKON CHAMBER OF MINES: FORMED TO ASSIST PROSPECTORS by Jane Gaffin

Jane Gaffin is a Whitehorse-based freelance writer who specializes in mining.

(Information for this article was provided by the late Tom Elliott (1910-2005), whose 47 years with the Vancouver-based British Columbia-Yukon Chamber of Mines included 20 years as manager (1955-1975); chamber correspondence files for Whitehorse and Dawson branches; a special Yukon News commemorative supplement marking the 50th anniversary of the Yukon Chamber of Mines 1943-1993 prepared by Jane Gaffin; minutes of YCM meetings, 1958-59; and Free Gold: The Story of Canadian Mining by Arnold Hoffman, 1947.)

"It is not so much money that these men want as the comfort of knowing they are remembered and not cast aside like worn-out boots. Surely, a mighty industry cannot afford to abandon them in their extremity, for was it not their gay, lighthearted touch that converted a waste of land into community wealth and created fat dividends and balance sheets for today's proud mining companies? To paraphrase Winston Churchill's deathless words, 'Never have so few done so much for so many for so little!' -- Arnold Hoffman, author of Free Gold: The Story of Canadian Mining, Chapter IV, The Prospector, pg. 101.

The Yukon Chamber of Mines (Honour Roll) was founded for the expressed purpose of supporting and assisting independent prospectors in every way possible.

Although the Yukon chamber would not become a registered society until May 11, 1959, its roots were initially planted in Dawson City on September 3, 1943, under auspices of the Vancouver-based British Columbia (B.C.) Chamber of Mines, which dates back to its own 1912 beginnings.

The popular myth that the North was a land of ice and snow that should be shunned was dispelled when easier access was made possible after the Alcan (Alaska-Canada) Highway was constructed in 1942.

The American Army wartime project was a bonus that would eventually translate into cheaper ore haulage and higher profits for mining companies.

Thousands of military men worked toward each other from Dawson Creek, British Columbia, and from the other end at Delta, Alaska. Whitehorse, a sleepy town of 400, was turned upside down when 35,000 transient construction workers descended on it to push earth out in both directions.

The two ends of the 1,645-mile mudhole were tied together in nine months; it took another

15 months to finish the \$130 million project.

The U.S. and Canada built the northern military supply road when the Japanese invaded Alaska's Aleutian Islands. Military aircraft enroute to Alaska refueled at new and improved northern airstrips. Gas and oil flowed through above-ground networks of uncoated pipelines to Fairbanks, Alaska.

A 600-mile, three-inch line from the Whitehorse refinery was complemented with lines coming in from Watson Lake, Yukon, and from the Alaska coastal towns of Haines and Skagway. Along the twisty Canol Road, a pipeline was designed to carry 3,000 barrels a day to the Whitehorse refinery from Norman Wells, Northwest Territories. The only oil that ever flowed was the 4,000 barrels daily of Imperial crude to test the system.

Regardless that the new Alaska Highway by-passed the Yukon's capital of Dawson City, the transportation artery and Canol and other spur roads, had opened northern British Columbia and the Yukon Territory to greater mining opportunities.

The B.C. Chamber of Mines was ambitiously exerting every effort to expedite mining development in the Yukon and hoped to entice some of the 35,000 transients to remain behind to work in a mining industry.

On May 3, 1943, the B.C. chamber's executive committee added the word "Yukon" to the mining organization's name and extended its presence into the territory as the British Columbia and Yukon Chamber of Mines.

On May 19, 1943, the B.C.-Yukon Chamber of Mines manager Frank Woodside wrote the Hon. George Black (Hall of Fame) in Ottawa, advising the Yukon member of Parliament that he had been elected honorary vice-president of the renamed organization.

The letter outlined the chamber's new objectives. "Up until the present, mining in the Yukon has been mostly placer gold. The people there probably feel that Vancouver and B.C. have not been actively associated with them. This is the main reason that we are anxious to get a very close connection.

"I know we can do more for Yukon prospectors and mining men than anyone else. We have already given whatever assistance was possible to prospectors in the Yukon."

Vancouver was the main supply centre for the Yukon. But Edmonton, Alberta, and Eastern Canadian cities were expected to make strong bids for northern business. The B.C.-Yukon Chamber had the edge and was already directing large mining companies to send scouts to the Yukon.

Some early companies, receptive to hiring prospectors and examining mineral properties, included: Leta Exploration Company of Toronto; Pioneer Gold Mines of British Columbia; Bralorne Mines Ltd.; Mining Corporation of Canada; Britannia Mining & Smelting; Hollinger Gold Mines; and Premier Gold Mining.

The ones with strong commitments and longevity in the North were: Ventures Ltd.; Conwest Explorations Co.; Hudson's Bay Mining & Smelting Co.; and Consolidated Mining & Smelting Co. (Cominco).

Noranda, a Quebec place name contracted from "Northern Canada", was the name of a

mining company formed in the early 1920s. It was curious about the Yukon, too.

The chamber of mines invited Yukon prospectors to list any mining properties they wanted to sell and to send mineral samples for display in the Vancouver office showroom. The information would be brought to the attention of companies whose scouts could contact the prospectors through the chamber's Dawson branch.

As soon as Dawson pioneer Fred E. Envoldsen, the public librarian, had completed the preliminary details for setting up the new chamber branch, he was designated manager, *pro tempore*.

Mr. Woodside, hankering to see the Yukon since the 1898 gold rush, came for the inaugural meeting. To reach Dawson, he travelled by steamer to Skagway, Alaska, narrow-gauge White Pass & Yukon Route train to Whitehorse, and by airplane to the capital city.

As soon as he touched down in Dawson, Mr. Woodside was on the go. The Dawson News (Honour Roll) reported his taking in the various sights of the city and making ready to go on a tour of the mining district: Klondike Valley, Hunker Creek, Dominion Creek, Bonanza Creek, Granville Creek and Sulphur Creek, known to every old timer and Yukoner.

On Friday evening of September 3, 1943, Mr. Woodside was pleased with the rousing launch the Dawson branch of the B.C.-Yukon Chamber of Mines was given by the small but enthusiastic audience in the Community Hall clubroom.

A good cross section of mining men, businessmen and prospectors participated in the formation of the new branch. The important meeting was good fodder for local and national publications.

A lengthy front-page article appeared in The Dawson News under a banner spanning the front page: "Inaugural Meeting of Dawson Branch". Beneath it was: "Enthusiastic Meeting of Local Branch of B.C. & Yukon Chamber of Mines".

The Vancouver Sun headed its article with "F.E. Woodside on Extensive Yukon Tour"; the Vancouver Province captioned its short piece with: "Yukon Branches of Mines Bureau Are Organized"; Western Business titled its comprehensive article with: "Yukon Organizes to Press Opening of Mine Resources".

The newly-elected president of the territory's first chamber of mines branch was MacLeod White, who was destined to serve five consecutive terms. The 51-year-old mining engineer had just moved to Dawson City in 1943 as the new assistant general manager of Yukon Consolidated Gold Corporation Limited (Honour Roll).

The vice-presidents were: Gus Barrett, YCGC civil engineer and Captain C.H. Chapman, manager of Northern Commercial Co. Ltd. (Honour Roll).

The 41-year-old Archie Gillespie, a Dawson News reporter, was the new scribe. His position was complemented with treasurer George Townsend, a salesman for Northern Commercial Co.'s men's wear.

Ten elected members rounded out the executive committee: Grant Henderson, placer miner; Harry Jones, a hardware merchant; Joe O. Redmond, B&F store manager; Helmer Samuelson, Dawson newspaper publisher; W.A. (Billy) Williams, dredge owner/operator in

60-Mile country.

Also were: Charles Frank Burkhard, retired merchant; Clarence W. Craig, YCGC transportation man; William B. Hare, a YCGC mechanic, prospector and amateur photographer; Jack Carpenter, prospector; and Fritz Guder (Hall of Fame), a prospector, mainly in the Carmacks area.

The four advisory board members were: Charles McLeod, lawyer, King's Council and YCGC's secretary; Arnold H. Nordale, YCGC superintendent; Jack Hulland, superintendent of Yukon schools; and Andrew Baird, YCGC's chief accountant.

The honorary president was Warren McFarland, YCGC general manager.

The honorary vice-presidents were: Yukon member of Parliament George Black, lawyer, K.C.; and J.E. Gibben, territorial court magistrate.

On his return journey home, Mr. Woodside was treated to a drive along the newly-minted Alaska Highway at Whitehorse's threshold. He used the experience to regale Vancouver Daily Province reporter Cecil Scott about the Yukon's post-war prospects.

"Mr. Woodside says the North isn't going to wait for a railway or additional highways," began the Province's story of October 5, 1943. "The people are counting on the Alaska Highway and planes to handle the ore being brought to light by an army of prospectors from big and little companies all over America."

Mr. Woodside declared there was no doubt that northern British Columbia and the Yukon would experience great activity. "The (Canol) pipeline and big refinery in Whitehorse will make oil available for power (which) is for now an isolated area from that point of view," he said.

Mr. Woodside added it was possible for custom mills to be established in suitable locations throughout the country. These mills could send their ore south to railhead by planes capable of handling 50 tons.

In his view, the availability of water and hydro power for development meant the resource-rich North country was practically an independent unit for production purposes.

Mr. Woodside stressed the need to start now with programs to induce the 35,000 young Americans and Canadians to stay in the North. He said the lads he met were largely enthusiastic for the country.

"Apart from many whom he met sending thousands of dollars back home for future use there, the remainder wanted only to be assured they could find work in the North after the war," wrote Mr. Scott.

Mr. Woodside said they love the freedom and the hospitality of the North and want to stay there to go into the mining field. Based on this objective, mining classes were being opened in Dawson, Whitehorse and other centres. The big companies were helping the Vancouver chamber ship mineral samples to the Yukon.

Mr. Woodside said old-timers were still working on the dredges in the Dawson area and a sufficient gold supply in the creek beds would keep the river barges working for another 50 years.

He also learned that the Mayo area hosted an enormous wealth in silver and lead for shipping.

At Whitehorse, he discovered that contractor camps were stretched in a 10-mile area about the little burg, which had bulged to 35,000 residents in two years, due mainly to military and highway construction crews. Hospitable people were taking in everybody as long as they could find floor space, he said.

Meanwhile, a committee had been formed that was in the preliminary stages of establishing a new Whitehorse branch on May 23, 1944.

In preparation for the inaugural meeting, which would include the first of a 10-part lecture series on mineralogy, geology and prospecting, letters whipped back and forth between manager Frank Woodside in Vancouver and committee secretary W.C. Driscoll, addressed to the Whitehorse Inn, which was owned by T.C. (Thomas Cecil) Richards (Honour Roll). The affluent Whitehorse businessman would be elected the first president.

For classes, the B.C.-Yukon Chamber shipped 44 mineral specimens and 500 booklets called 185 Minerals and How to Identify Them.

Mr. Woodside's letter of April 18, 1944, advised: "We are delighted with your letter. It indicates that there are the right men in the right place to make the Yukon Territory come back into its own and that mining will be a great industry in northern British Columbia and the Yukon, of which Whitehorse will be the centre.

"I like your idea of getting a log cabin for a headquarters. It will be attractive and in keeping with the traditions of the Yukon...

"We are very busy here at the (Vancouver) headquarters. The Chamber of Mines is the only organization that is doing anything to engender pep and life into the mining industry and we are getting splendid support from the business firms.

"Letters we receive from eastern Canada and the United States indicate that we are well and favourably known. When your branch is under way we will circularize all our friends everywhere advising them of your activities."

Mr. Driscoll's April 23rd reply was written on McCormick Transportation letterhead: "Many thanks for helping us get the Whitehorse Branch rolling... We have stamped a large number of receipt books and are starting out on the warpath after members tomorrow. Mr. (Matt) Nelson and I will be on the job as bill posters tomorrow, plastering the town with the notices regarding the coming lectures.

"I think we can line up a good committee, as you suggest, with a number of prominent mining men and prospectors on it, and have their names appear on our stationery.

"We have not made definite arrangements for securing the hall as yet. Mr. Richards and Mr. Nelson had an engagement with (Army) Col. Johnson yesterday afternoon. The Colonel kept them cooling their heels... for about an hour and then did not see them. They were both plenty sore... but are making another attempt to see the Colonel tomorrow. This man Richards is not accustomed to being high-hatted by anyone. He does not have to take it.

"We are working an angle to secure a splendid log house for a headquarters. It is just one

block from the main street, behind the 'Inn'. It belongs to the government. Mr. Richards is going to get in touch with George Black and see what can be done about securing it for the headquarters of the Whitehorse Branch.

"It would be ideal for our purposes and I think it is up to the government to co-operate with us in getting it. It is two-storied and there is lots of room. It could be fixed up and put in splendid shape for a few hundred dollars."

Mr. Driscoll's weather report indicated the cold winds of the past two weeks had kept temperatures cool. As a result the snow in the hills was not melting very quickly. "I doubt very much whether we shall be able to get our prospectors out before the middle of May," he advised.

"Could you send me all the available data on Yukon, the latest geological reports and the preliminary reports on the work done by the Geological Survey last summer...also maps etc. Send them Air Express collect. I...would like to have them here when our boys arrive.

"I have heard nothing from John (Jack) L. Ross regarding his coming with us. I wrote him today stating that we could use him and his partner. If he happens to drop in at your office you might jog him up."

In a letter of May 1, 1944, Mr. Driscoll discussed the status of prospectors the chamber was hiring for the field and had wired transportation money. Peter McNee and his wife had arrived and a Mr. Everton and his partner were coming that night on the plane from Prince George. But Jack Ross still had not answered his telegrams. Mr. Driscoll would give him another 24 hours before hiring a replacement--providing all the good men had not been employed.

"We are meeting with good success in our drive for new members," Mr. Driscoll proclaimed. "Mr. George Black, M.P., is here for the opening of the New (oil) refinery and Mr. Richards is going to take him in hand and see what can be done in the way of getting some prompt action regarding the headquarters we are after.

"In the meantime, I am opening a temporary office in the 'Inn'. You may notice from the new letterhead that they have honoured me by making me the secretary...

"I am writing to Mr. W.B. Timm, of Ottawa, regarding a supply of latest reports, maps and all available data concerning the Yukon, as you suggested.

"Enclosed herewith you will find money order for \$50.00 payable to Laucks Laboratories Ltd., covering 185 Minerals etc...We must have them here in time for the lectures.

"The weather is quite warm today and I think we shall soon have the celebrated Yukon summer, the finest summer weather in the world." He invited Mr. Woodside to consider arranging to spend his summer holidays at Whitehorse.

The chamber of mines' annual prospecting courses remained a big hit with the public from the time the tradition began in 1944. The first series of lectures on mineralogy, geology and practical prospecting were sponsored by the B.C.-Yukon Chamber of Mines of Vancouver and the Whitehorse branch. On May 23, 1944, the same date the B.C.-Yukon Chamber's Whitehorse branch was officially organized, 200 men and women attended the initial meeting and lectures.

A group photograph was published in the Vancouver Sun on July 6, 1944. Many participants were long-time prospectors who lingered after class to show samples to the lecturers, Dr. E.D. Kindle of the Geological Survey in Ottawa and professor Robert Thompson of the University of British Columbia. The instructors were sponsored by the mines and geology branch of the federal Department of Mines and Resources.

Mr. Driscoll sent off another upbeat letter to Mr. Woodside. "You will be glad to learn that our lecture series got away to a very successful start last night. The attendance was about two hundred. A large number of the audience were old-time Yukon prospectors, some of whom came to Whitehorse to attend the lectures. Twenty-five new members joined at the meeting.

"After the lectures there was a general discussion, and Dr. Kindle answered a lot of questions. A number stayed after the lectures to show specimens to the geologists and get their advice.

"We expect another good crowd tonight...Our drive for new members has met with good success."

Despite the initial enthusiasm, the Whitehorse Branch flagged. Meetings weren't called, not even once a year for the annual general business meeting. T.C. Richards, slack in his duties, wanted to shed his position as president.

Mining enthusiast Albert Coy, a short, roundish-sized fellow, took the initiative to rejuvenate the organization in 1948. His letter was typed on Y.T. Construction Co. stationery that promoted "War Assets Surplus Equipment, Excavation, Hauling and Lumber".

Mr. Coy explained circumstances to Mr. Woodside: "A re-organization meeting was held here in the Parish Hall on June 24, 1948 of the Whitehorse Branch of the B.C. & Yukon Chamber of Mines. Mr. Richards, the president was not present...He has not called a meeting for several years.

"I was temporary acting secretary. There was 36 present and we had a real enthused meeting and a lot of discussion re: Yukon mining act. Any suggestions on how to get started again would be muchly appreciated and I feel sure we will have a real live branch re-elected here."

What transpired at the chamber between the 1948 correspondence until Mr. Coy dispatched another on August 6, 1952, is a mystery. But obviously excitement was shaking at Quill Creek in the Burwash-Kluane area.

Re-printed letterhead showed the president to be W.M. Emery, the Whitehorse mining recorder. The Hon. Presidents were R.C. MacDonald, B.C. minister of mines, Victoria; and J. Aubrey Simmons, member of Parliament for Yukon-McKenzie.

On August 6, 1952, the secretary-treasurer, Mr. Coy, who had a vested interest in Quill Creek, advised Mr. Woodside of some forthcoming samples he was sending from the new nickel strike.

"Yukon Mining Co. has sold these claims to Hudson Bay Mining & Smelting. One hundred & eighty claims. I was the promoter of Yukon Mining and managing director, but have sold

most of my interest to H.B. Co.

"It looks like the biggest strike in years and the H.B. are sure going to town with camps built, road constructed and telephone line right into camp. Drillers have been flown in from Flin Flon (Manitoba) and contract let for a large permanent camp. Lots of prospectors and big company representatives now here."

Meanwhile, the Dawson branch had been active since inception. Howard W. Firth, an insurance agent, had been appointed secretary-manager in 1945. The chamber had extended its duties to include those of a local Board of Trade. A full cry was heard over reducing airfares. And, in view of the Alaska Highway by-passing the territory's capital city, the Dawson branch was soon sponsoring a petition to have a road built to connect Dawson and Mayo with Whitehorse.

Manager Woodside advised of a meeting he had with the famous "Wop" May of Canadian Pacific Airlines in late January, 1948. They discussed details of a brief supporting an application the Dawson branch would be submitting to Ottawa for CP Airline service into the Yukon Territory.

The annual meeting of the Dawson branch was held on January 17, 1949, and Mr. Firth related the year's ambitious calendar with its favourable results to Mr. Woodside.

First, he reported a small increase in membership from 60 to 66 in 1948. An average 28 members attended the nine general meetings; the executive met six times during the year.

The Dawson branch was called on to protest the actions taken by the federal minister of department of Mines and Resources with respect to a conflict between the new timber regulations and the Yukon Quartz Mining Act. Upon protesting to the proper authorities, a more favourable interpretation was obtained as to how the Act applied to the Yukon Territory.

The Dawson branch also was greatly responsible for getting the Tantalus Butte coal deposits at Carmacks opened and mined on a commercial basis. It took considerable lobbying to convince the operators and transportation company that the Dawson district was desperately in need of the fuel and a sufficient amount had to be produced each year to make the operation worthwhile for the owners and the consumers.

During the summer months, the Dawson branch entertained officials of the Canadian Pacific Airlines on several occasions as well as representatives of Standard Oil and the postal department. "The results of these meetings and our efforts to bring to the attention of the officials the needs of the territory can now be seen and felt in better air service, mail service and a more economical and efficient manner in handling our fuel and diesel oils."

Their labours to achieve an all-weather road link between Dawson and Whitehorse looked promising. Construction commenced on the section of the road from Minto to Mayo.

"As a result of strong letters and wires sent to the ministers of transport and of mines and resources--complaining of delayed freight, non-delivery of coal and other vital commodities by our general demoralized transportation company--a hearing before the Board of Transport Commissioners and Air Transport Board was held here on September 14," explained Mr. Firth.

"The services of Mr. T.C. Williams, barrister & solicitor of Vancouver, were obtained at the expense of the Chamber. He presented our case in such a manner that we are now in receipt of a letter from the department of Transport and a copy of order-in-council No. PC 5196, which is the decision of the joint boards with regards to the hearing."

The Dawson branch had a right to believe this decision would prove most beneficial in the future, as there was now a known place for the mining districts of Mayo and Dawson to register any future complaints regarding services and rates.

"In all, we consider we have had a most successful year and our little chamber is gradually getting the esteem and respect of not only our residents but also the federal and territorial authorities," noted Mr. Firth in closing.

Meanwhile, the Whitehorse branch had tried in fits and fizzes to reorganize but seemingly went into hibernation in 1948 and never woke up for 10 years.

By then, Ottawa had moved the Yukon's capital to Whitehorse in 1953, and Mr. Woodside had retired as manager of the B.C.-Yukon Chamber of Mines. His replacement was Thomas Elliott whose tenure ran from 1955 until his own retirement in 1975.

Mr. Elliott, born on February 12, 1910, had come from Bellevue, Ireland, to Vancouver with his family in 1912. He had joined the B.C. Chamber of Mines staff in 1928 as a fresh high school graduate and learned the ropes as Mr. Woodside's assistant.

During a memorable 47-year career with the chamber, he became one of Canada's best-known and much-admired mining advocates who was greatly sought as a participant and speaker for mining meetings and conferences. (Mr. Elliott died on February 16, 2005, four days after his 95th birthday. His wife, Nellie, predeceased him in 1999. They had two children, Norm and Janice.)

The Whitehorse branch of the B.C.-Yukon Chamber of Mines held a kick-start meeting in the Parish Hall on the evening of March 27, 1958. Election of officers was paramount: president, Ivor Mast; first vice-president, Alan Kulan (Hall of Fame); second vice-president, James Hanna; secretary-treasurer, Mrs. E.M. Warren and council members were: Emil Forrest, Gordon Dickson (Hall of Fame), Chuck Gibbons (Hall of Fame) and Peter Versluce (Hall of Fame).

Alec Berry (Honour Roll), Conwest Exploration's scout and public relations man, gave an update on the Prospectors and Developers Association meeting and convention he had attended earlier that month in Toronto. Mr. Berry had been appointed director of the Prospectors and Developers Association (PDA) in 1957, a capacity in which he would serve continuously for 18 years. He had put forward the possibility of the B.C.-Yukon Chamber of Mines' Whitehorse branch affiliating itself with the PDA. On the other end, the Toronto-based organization was interested in the prospect.

On April 8, 1958, Mrs. Warren wrote to advise Mr. Elliott of the idea and requested a copy of the constitution to guide them in procedure. "We are reorganizing this branch which has been practically dormant the past few years," she added.

From 1958 onward, proposed changes to the Yukon Quartz Mining Act--sometimes initiated by the miners and sometimes by the federal government--was an infinite subject on the agenda as was land alienation for national and territorial parks.

During the 1958 monthly meetings, the small gathering of a dozen stalwarts did delve into various topics that would prove to have long-standing benefits for Yukon prospectors.

Financial assistance to prospectors was under discussion with specific regard to the pressing need for transportation. It was suggested that no cash outlay be requested of the government but rather transportation bills be paid to and from the prospector's site.

One motion was moved by Mr. Berry and seconded by Mr. A. McKillop to forward a letter to Mr. Erik Nielsen, a 34-year-old Whitehorse lawyer elected as Conservative Yukon member of Parliament on March 31, 1958. The chamber would ask for assistance from the government in the form of transportation be given to the prospector, providing he stayed out 60 day.

Joe Lindsay's motion was seconded by Chuck Gibbons that the government be asked to assist the assayer by paying for 10 quantitative and 10 qualitative assays for bona fide prospectors in order that the assayer could stay in the Yukon over the summers.

At one meeting, it was decided that Mr. Skinner, the resident government geologist, should be approached on the subject of holding prospecting classes in Whitehorse, Dawson, Mayo and Watson Lake. If approval could not be accomplished at this level, then Erik Nielsen, M.P., was to be approached for assistance in getting Ottawa's approval for Mr. Skinner to instruct the prospecting classes.

On March 26, 1959, Al Kulan was in the chair. It was noted that their appeals to Mr. Nielsen had paid off. A \$5,000 grant had been received from the federal government to provide assistance to the prospectors and establish an assay office.

At the April 23, 1959 meeting, correspondence from Mr. Nielsen was read. Then the members voiced individual opinions about whether to drop "B.C." from the name and register the Yukon Chamber of Mines under the Societies Ordinance of the Yukon. A motion, moved by Al Kulan and seconded by Alec Berry, was passed that the Whitehorse branch of the B.C.-Yukon Chamber of Mines takes the necessary steps to have the organization's name changed to the Yukon Chamber of Mines and notify Vancouver, Mayo and Dawson. The Yukon Chamber of Mines became a registered society on May 11, 1959.

Mr. Nielsen, M.P., was present at the chamber meeting of November 9, 1959. He suggested the members ask the Yukon Territorial Council to endorse the Yukon Chamber of Mines' request to the federal government for a grant.

Another subject on the agenda was a national park. Again! Wally Green (Hall of Fame) suggested that a letter be sent to the Northern Affairs requesting that a geological survey be conducted of all areas contemplated before any area was set aside for a park.

Erik Nielsen moved that President Kulan write to all members of territorial council stating the Yukon Chamber of Mines disapproved of any changes in the assessment of mining companies, suggesting that, as mining was the Yukon's future, that Yukoners should be creating an atmosphere that was attractive rather than detrimental--i.e., load limits, assessments, etc. The motion, backed by Alec Berry, passed unanimously.

At the last meeting of 1959, Mr. Nielsen moved, and Mr. Kulan seconded, that the executive be empowered to appoint a publicity director with such powers as the executive deemed advisable.

Further, it was recommended that a committee consisting of Ray McKamey, Al Kulan, Don Rotherham, with Erik Nielsen as member-at-large, investigate the feasibility of opening up the Whitehorse Copperbelt and the building of a small concentrator nearby.

Although the regular dozen members attended meetings, the \$2.00 memberships had increased to 50 individuals; there were two corporate memberships. The meetings continued to be held at the Parish Hall until the chamber found a way to negotiate a purchase agreement for suitable and affordable office space.

Over the years, the chamber was housed in such places as the IODE Hall; an Elliott Street house behind Hougen's store; the basement of the newly-constructed City Hall on Second Avenue in 1966; the historic Bill Taylor house on the corner of Main Street and Fifth Avenue; and the 1997 move to an office building on the corner of Third Avenue at Strickland Street.

The Yukon Chamber of Mines was inducted into the Yukon Prospectors' Association's Honour Roll in 1988. Its name is inscribed on a brass plate attached to the Hall of Fame artpiece on display in the foyer of the Yukon government administration building. The name also is engraved in the base of the bronze prospector statue that watches over downtown Whitehorse from Main Street and Third Avenue.

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See related articles [The Fabulous T.C. Richards](#); [George Black's Greatest Legacy Was His Strong Mining Law](#); [Fred "Fritz" Guder: Freegold Fame](#); [Prospectors Found Fortune in Their Own Back Yard](#) (the story of Peter and Harry Verslucce and Chuck Gibbons); [Gordon Francis Dickson](#); [Alec Berry](#): Conwest Exploration's Super Sleuth; [Wally Green](#): The Prospector Who Wasn't Interested in Mines; and [Alan Kulan](#): Mining Legend to Enter Hall of Fame.

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